

**Acquisition of New Ships**

(f) if so, the details thereof?

\*168. **SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of the Government regarding acquisition of new ships;

(b) whether the Government have estimated the dead weight tonnage (DWT) of fleet required by the year 2000;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) how much replacement of existing tonnage is likely to be required;

(e) whether the Government have worked out the financial requirements; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The policy of the Government is to encourage acquisition of new ships, keeping in view the requirement of tonnage to meet the transport needs of the country's sea borne trade and the need to support Indian Shipyards.

(b) to (f) The Planning Group on Shipping set up by Planning Commission estimated in 1987 the tonnage required to be acquired by 2000 A.D. and the corresponding investment required at the prevalent exchange rates to be made to finance this acquisition on the basis of four scenarios. The details are given below:—

|                                       | Tonnage (Million DWT)       |                         |                                      | Total Investment (Rs. crores) |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                                       | Total required by 2000 A.D. | Additional acquisitions | Of which for replacement (1987-2000) |                               |
| (i) High cargo and high market share  | 11.6                        | 9.0                     | 7.1                                  | 8,100                         |
| (ii) High cargo and low market share  | 10.3                        | 7.7                     | 7.1                                  | 7,200                         |
| (iii) Low cargo and high market share | 10.7                        | 8.1                     | 7.1                                  | 7,500                         |
| (iv) Low cargo and low market share   | 9.6                         | 6.9                     | 7.1                                  | 6,700                         |

**Change in Import-Export Policy**

\*169. **SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced a major policy change in the import-export trade keeping in view the consequences recorded after devaluation of rupee in the country;

(b) whether the balance of payments would be adversely affected in the near future with more import trade than export trade orientation; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Evasion of Excise Duty by companies**

\*170. SHRI KARIA MUNDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the companies against whom show cause notices for Excise duty evasion of more than Rs. 50 crores each have been issued during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to take over the shares of the foreign companies against whom excise duty of more than Rs. 50 crores is pending realisation; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Show-Cause-Notices for Excise duty evasion of more than Rs. 50 crores each have been issued to the following companies during the last three years:—

1. M/s. Hindustan News Print Limited, News Print Nagar, Kottayam.
2. M/s. Mysore Paper Mills, Bhadravati.
3. M/s. G.I.C., Bombay.
4. M/s. Godfrey Phillips India Limited, Bombay.

(b) and (c) After the issue of Show-Cause-Notice, the case has to be adjudicated. Question of initiating recovery proceedings arises only after confirmation of the duty demands in adjudication & not just after issue of the Show-Cause-Notice. After the demands are confirmed, there are several other more direct and quicker methods of enforcing recovery than taking over the shares of a company.

[*Translation*]

### **Alleged irregularities in DGS & D**

\*173. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-items appearing in "Jansatta" dated 9 and 10 January, 1991 regarding the irregularities committed in the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes Sir, in so far as publication of the news item is concerned.

(b) The allegations were examined in January, 91 and found to be unsubstantiated.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

### **Implementation of Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief scheme in Gujarat**

\*174. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of farmers benefited under the 'Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990' till date, State-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(b) the amount sanctioned and released under the scheme to the State of Gujarat till date; and

(c) when the remaining amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Scheme provides debt relief to eligible borrowers who are farmers, artisans and weavers. As on 1st July, 1991